dealers seeling fertilisers in small packages upto 5 kgs from obtaining certificate of registration. They have also been advised to allow sale of fertilsers through mobile van with certificate of registration.

Studies on Degradation of Values in the Armed Forces

402. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express recently that the Defence Research Development Organisation had been asked to conduct studies to ascertain the reasons for the growing degradation of values fall in discipline and integrity in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, when Government are expect to get the report from the DRDO; and

(c) the details of composition of the study group set up for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence Research & Development Organisation has not been asked to conduct studies as referred to in part (a) of the Question.

Acquisition of Hawk Jet Trainer Aircrafts

403. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to acquire Hawk jet trainer aircrafts for the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether the matter was discussed with the British Prime Minister during his recent visit to India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the French firms have offered better terms for supply of Alfa jets; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering the French offer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Government has obtained proposals for the acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) from the two short-listed vendors viz. M/s. Dassault Aviation of France for Alpha jet and M/s. British Aerospace of UK for Hawk. An examination of the competing technical proposals is being finalised. Thereafter, Government approval will be solicited for initiating commercial negotiations. The subject came up for a brief mention during the discussions held by the British Prime Minister.

Seminar on Linkage Between Industry and Defence

404. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Seminar on "Greater Linkage between Industry and Defence" held recently in Delhi organised by the Confedration of Indian Industry for achieving self reliance; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the suggestions made at the seminar and what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Salient suggestions made at the seminar are the follwing:—

(i) A close co-operation should be established between defence and civil sector industry so that the latter's participation in defence production could be optimised.

(ii) There should be an increased transparency in notifying the requirement of the user so that